Lucien Farnham
Andover – Dec 9 – 1829

Mr. A. A. Phelps,
Theol. Sem. Alex Theatre

1824

Answer to the Princeton Dr. in his attack upon the A. E. Soc. published in the Biblical Repertory — in doing which, I kept a quill at the ends of my fingers as long as Jonah was kept in the whale. —— In your last you mention your things — but as I said before — Robbins left nothing with me — nor can I ascertain whether he left anything with any body else. — Have just ascertained that he left an axe and a singing book with J. A. Smith — the axe he gave to Smith and Cutler — which they say has neither helve nor edge — Cutler says, "it has no cutting power" — and Smith says it is impossible for him to repair it — &c. &c. The Sing. Book I have in mea possessione, — it has lost several pages of its latter end — I will sell it if I can, and "hand over" when I see you — The Deacon Newman's business is quiet — Pinchard & Derby's is so also — so far as I know — presume there will be no stir about them — if there should be I'll give you due notice — And now I come to a tremendous sentence — I fear I have incurred the penalty of being blotted out of your books — but I hope you will consider this as some atonement for the past, and an earnest of more to come. I have three Nos. of Spirit of the Pilgrims belonging to you — there is also one no. of the Journal & Register I believe — I will endeavor to have all straight — As to the Seminary, all things go on regular fashion, in most respects — We have Mr. Hoadly — late Minister in Worcester — vice Dr. Porter absent, on account of ill health — Mr. Emerson will be inaugurated in about ~~a~~ two weeks, sermon by Dr. Dana, Newburyport — Write me soon, I want something fresh from the mint — will try to do better next time, and be assured I would have written before had it been practicable —

Your Brother L. Farnam

P.S. Remember me to Brs. Barnes, Dickinson, Tillotson, Eaton, Turner, Grosvenor, ~~M~~ Messenger, Boscom, (who taught the Academy last year in Canaan if he be there.) and Southgate &c. &c. — J. A. Smith sends love to Bro. Phelps, Dickinson & Tillotson &c. — Feather — the dispenser saith not. Farewell Br. Pilgrim. L. F.

With respect to going a missionary to S. America, It is rather a new idea, but I'll think of it hope I shall be willing to go wherever duty calls — (though by the way, I recd. your letters so long after they were written, and answer them so long after they were recd, I fear I shall hit upon nothing but what is out of date — unless it be by mere hit), I have thought much of the West especially Illinois — should like to know how the association comes on — And if you go on next year to spy out the land just look out a spot for me. If I were to discribe a place that would suit me, perhaps it would pertake too much of the ideal world, like Plato's Republic, or Cicero's Orator, so I will leave it to a wise Providence to direct. — Am glad you are so much pleased with your "change" as you mention in your letter — should be highly gratified to make one of your number, if — it were practicable. —

Now for your last, dated Oct. 19, which I recd. the same day with the other — And your first question is "why dont you write me?" And I will answer in few words — after receiving your great one last term — my engagements were so pressing that I could not find sufficient time to write "at" such a formidable letter, and concluded I would write in vacation — but did not find time then — on my return, I found three letters and intended to write immediately, but was taken sick and confined for several days, and as soon as I recovered I had a job on hand which must be done — and I have seized the first moment I could command, to write you — and be assured you are the first of my correspondents to whom I write — One thing I had to do last term was — to copy for the press all Prof Stuarts

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Brother Phillips,

To day, after so long a time, I will try to let you know two things, at last, viz. that I am yet alive, and that I have not forgotten you, although I acknowledge my long silence would justly lead you to suppose that one or the other was the fact. And not to spend too much time in explanations and apologies, (for what is the chaff to the wheat?) let us come at once "in medias res," and dispatch matters and things, for I see no less than three letters before me bearing your signature, which have lain "upon the table" long enough to "pass to a third reading." And first, Your Theol. letter, of July last I value much, though I have not sufficiently digested the matter yet, to attempt a formal answer: I do not think however that we should differ much on the Subject. Certainly we agree in the sentiment of "magna est veritas, et praevalebit;" Should like however to give your letter another reading, before I give my answer, perhaps I may be in N. H. next year (inter nos) uncertain. Should like very much to spend a year or part of a year there. But to come down to yours of Sept. which by the way I did not receive till a week after this term commenced. I did not see Br. Upthorp, nor have I seen the pamphlet which he brought. As to your things which you mentioned, I spoke to Br. Robbins, and he said he would attend to them, and of course I could find nothing to do. And when Robbins left he said nothing about them, and I supposed they were all regulated; And when I received your last two letters, he was gone and I have been able to ascertain nothing respecting them. I would gladly do any thing in my power to assist you